MARVEL COMICS

AVENGERS

SEPT '96 402

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

AVENGERS

SPECIAL HEROES REBORN UPDATE INSIDE!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

ONSLAUGHT IMPACT 2

DON'T MISS THIS ENRA OF ERA EPIC!

PALMER

AN UNSCHEDULED STOP ON THE NUMBER THREE LINE.

THE SUBWAY TRAIN HAS BEEN TRAPPED UNDER THE STREETS OF MANHATTAN FOR THREE HOURS... AND COUNTING.

CAUGHT IN A SUDDEN, STYGIAN DARKNESS... MYSTIFIED, TERRIFIED AT THE LACK OF EVEN THE BAREST EMERGENCY LIGHT...

...ITS PASSENGERS ERUPTED INTO PANIC...

...TWO HOURS AGO.

BACK WHEN THERE WAS AIR.

NOW THEY WAIT... SEALED INSIDE A STEEL COFFIN... PARALYZED AT THE NOTION OF LEAVING, SWIMMING THROUGH THE BLACKNESS.

AFRAID OF THE UNKNOWN...

...AND PRAYING FOR HOPE.

EVERYBODY GOT ENOUGH LIGHT? GOOD.

I SEE YET ANOTHER STALLED TRAIN.

WHAT DO WE DO, CAP? WRENCH THE DOORS OPEN? LEAD THE PASSENGERS OUT?

NO. THE MOMENT WE TRY, THESE POOR SOULS WILL STAMPEDE. THEY'LL TRAMPLE EACH OTHER IN THE PITCH DARKNESS.

WHAT ARE WE, A HALF-MILE FROM THE 34TH STREET STATION? I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA...

WASP-- SCOUT AHEAD! MAKE SURE THE TRACKS ARE CLEAR!

WANDA-- UP HERE WITH ME!

THOR-- FIND THE THIRD RAIL--

--AND GIVE IT SOME JUICE!

KRA-KOOM!

DONE!

VWHOOOOOOSSSSHH!

TERRIFIC! THAT GOT IT MOVING!

NOW... ON MY MARK... PUT A LITTLE NORSE GOD MUSCLE INTO IT...

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SKREEE!

...AND SLOW IT DOWN!

NNNGHH!

WASP, YOU TAKE THE DOORS! WANDA AND I WILL LEAD THESE FOLKS TO DAYLIGHT! GOT IT?

CONSIDER IT GOTTEN, CHIEF!

THEN GO! GO!

SHRAK!

CAPTAIN AMERICA?

--OH, THANK GOD--

--GOT TO HELP US--

THIS WAY, EVERYONE! LET'S MOVE!

FOLLOW US!

THAT'S IT! STAY CALM! DO NOT PANIC! WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

WE'LL BE ABOVE GROUND SOON, AND EVERYTHING WILL BE--

STAN LEE presents THE AVENGERS in

END OF THE LINE

--ALL RIGHT--?

GOOD LORD... IT'S BEDLAM UP HERE!

AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HOLD THIS CITY TOGETHER?

OUR JOB HAS JUST BEGUN...

...THANKS TO ONSLAUGHT.

THOR SPITS THE NAME.

MARK	MIKE	TOM	JOHN	BILL	MARK	BOB
WAID	DEODATO	PALMER	KALISZ	OAKLEY	GRUENWALD	HARRAS
story	breakdowns	finishes	colors	letters	editor	editor in chief

THIS MORNING, ONSLAUGHT-- THE MOST POWERFUL MUTANT FORCE EARTH HAS EVER SEEN-- MADE HIS FIRST STRIKE ON NEW YORK--

STRAK!

--TERRORIZING EIGHT MILLION SOULS WHO NOW LOOK HUNGRILY FOR SALVATION--

--FROM THE HEROES WHO HAVE DEFENDED THEM TIME AND AGAIN.

--BROADCASTING AN ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE THAT STOLE EVERY ERG OF POWER IN THE NOW-PARALYZED CITY-- *

* X-MEN #55.

THEIR AVENGERS, HOWEVER, ARE NOWHERE NEAR THEIR PEAK OF POWER.

VISION, CRYSTAL AND HAWKEYE HAVE SPLIT OFF WITH THE HULK--*

* HULK # 445.

--AND GIANT-MAN AND QUICKSILVER ARE STILL WITH IRON MAN. THEY'RE DEVELOPING PSI-SHIELDING THAT WILL PROTECT US FROM ONSLAUGHT.

IF WE DON'T RENDEZVOUS WITH THEM, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP THESE POOR PEOPLE AT ALL!

HAS ANYONE SEEN THE WIDOW? SHE SAID SHE'D MEET WITH US AROUND HERE--

LET GO OF ME!

GET BACK!

--CAN'T FIND MY WIFE--

--WHAT'S HAPPENING?

--GOT TO HELP US--

--END OF THE WORLD--

HEELLLPP UUUUS!

WIDOW, I'M HERE! YOU HAVE TO HOLD ON--

--TRAPPED IN THE--

--GOING TO KILL US ALL--

--IN THE NAME OF GOD, SAVE US!

--AND THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR THE REST OF YOU!

FEAR WON'T HELP ANYBODY! STAY CALM!

THAT SEEMED TO EASE THEIR MINDS.

UNTIL I STOPPED *TALKING*. WIDOW, ARE YOU ALL *RIGHT*?

JUST *RATTLED*. THEY LOOK TO US LIKE WE'RE *GODS*.

NO *OFFENSE*, THOR.

THEY NEED US LIKE THEY *NEVER HAVE BEFORE*... AND WE'RE NOT EVEN *CERTAIN* WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST. RIGHT, CAP?

CAP?

SO MUCH *CHAOS* AND *DESTRUCTION*. I'VE... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING *LIKE* IT...

GEE, *THANKS*, CAP. NOT EXACTLY WHAT WE NEEDED TO *HEAR*...

THANKS FOR THE *SAVE*. I'LL BE *FINE*. I WANT TO KEEP PATROLLING THE *CITY*.

THE REST OF YOU HAVE TO MAKE THE *RENDEZVOUS*... SO *GO*.

AND *GODSPEED*.

AND YOU? YOU SEEM EXTRA WORRIED.

I AM... ABOUT CAP. WE'RE ALL OVERWHELMED... BUT THIS SEEMS TO BE TAKING ITS GREATEST TOLL ON HIM. HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW FRAYED HE IS?

I HATE TO SAY IT--AFTER ALL, HE'S LED US AGAINST THE BIGGEST AND THE BADDEST--

--BUT MAYBE THIS ONCE--AGAINST SOMEONE WHO COULD MAKE GALACTUS PAUSE --CAP'S IN OVER HIS HEAD.

THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK ARE AT THEIR LOWEST EBB. I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH HOPE CAP CAN INSPIRE IN THEM BEFORE THEIR HOPELESSNESS DROWNS EVEN HIM. AND THEN...

...WHERE ARE WE?

THERE YOU ARE--AND RIGHT ON TIME!

TELL ME YOU HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS. WE COULD USE IT.

WE MIGHT HAVE CRACKED THE DEFENSE PROBLEM. BEST WE CAN OFFER.

BEFORE, WE WEREN'T EVEN REMOTELY EQUIPPED TO WITHSTAND ONSLAUGHT'S TELEKINETIC PSISTORMS. CONSEQUENTLY, HE'S BEEN ABLE TO DRIVE US BACK DURING EVERY ATTACK.*

USING CHARLES XAVIER'S DESIGNS, GIANT-MAN AND I WERE ABLE TO COBBLE UP SOME PSIONIC ARMOR. UNFORTUNATELY, TECHNOLOGICALLY SPEAKING, IT'S SPIT-AND-BAILING WIRE STUFF...

...WITH NO GUARANTEE THAT IT'LL WORK.

*UNCANNY X-MEN #336.

FZAAAK!

HOLY--!

BOOM

WHAT HIT THOR? IT CAME OUT OF NOWHERE--

NOT EXACTLY.

DISENGAGE CLOAK, POST.

DONE, HOLOCAUST.

TAK

YOUR LAST CHANCE IS SPENT, AVENGERS. ONSLAUGHT HAS SENT US TO... LIBERATE YOUR PSI-SHIELD DEVICES.

BOOM

WELL, IRON MAN... IF ONSLAUGHT WANTS THEM...

...CLEARLY YOU ARE ON TO SOMETHING...

DO NOT TOY WITH US, SPEEDSTER.

CLOAK ENGAGED.

TAK

BOOM

HE'S DOWN! THOR IS DOWN!

--BUSTED WINDOWS IN THE BRONX--

WHERE'D THE BIG ONE GO? I CAN'T SEE HIM!

THE AVENGERS'LL FIND HIM! THEY'LL SAVE US!

WON'T THEY...?

THE BATTLE IS WON, POST! WE CLAIM OUR--

--PRIZE--?

NOT IF MY HEX SPHERE CLAIMS IT FIRST.

I SEE. SO LONG AS YOU'RE IN THE MOOD TO PLAY CATCH, THEN--

HWHUFF!

--HERE!

WHAM!

HOLOCAUST! WATCH THE WASP!

TAK!

CAP-- HEADS UP!

CAP?

OH, NO...

LOOK AT HIM! THIS IS JUST WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF!

THE TIDE OF THE CROWD HAS FINALLY GOTTEN TO HIM!

"HE'S BEEN SUCKED INTO THAT VORTEX OF DESPAIR THAT'S PULLING US ALL UNDER. MY GOD... WITHOUT HIS FAITH...

"...WHAT HOPE DO THE REST OF US HAVE?"

FWAM!

KSSSH!

POLICE

CAP? SNAP OUT OF IT! WE NEED YOU! THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY, RIGHT?

TELL ME THERE'S SOME WAY TO MAKE THIS WORK! TELL ME WE CAN--

WE CAN'T BEAT THEM.

WHAT?!

GHUUH!

KA-RACK!

SO... SO THAT'S IT? WE JUST ROLL OVER? THIS IS HOW IT ALL ENDS?

...

WHAT?

I SAID, THIS IS HOW IT ALL--?

--CAP? CAP?

DON'T INTERRUPT ME.

I'M THINKING.

WHAT? MY CLOAK--?

TAKKZZTT

SP-TANG!

WHO DARES...?

GOT YOUR ATTENTION, HOLOCAUST? GOOD. GO ON...

...TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT.

NO... NO...

NNOOOOO--!!

FA-CHOOM!

WOW.

I... I DON'T *UNDERSTAND!* I THOUGHT YOU SAID WE COULDN'T *BEAT* THEM!

WHAT... WHAT HAVE I *DONE...?*

WE DIDN'T HAVE THE *MANPOWER.* WE HAD TO TRICK THEM INTO BEATING *THEMSELVES.*

WHAT DID YOU *THINK* I MEANT?

NOTHING, SIR...

THEN *QUICKLY*--WHILE HOLOCAUST IS *DISTRACTED*--

--HIT HIM *HARD!*

BWAAM!

THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE TOLD TWICE.

ALMOST AS ONE, THE AVENGERS STRIKE.

POOLING THEIR POWERS AND THEIR COURAGE, THEY BRING ALL THEIR FORCE TO BEAR...

...UNTIL HOLOCAUST FALLS...

...BEFORE EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES.

AND THE CROWD

GOES

WILD.

WANDA, YOU HAVE THE *PSI-ARMOR?*

RIGHT *HERE.*

THEN EVERYONE *SUIT UP* SO WE CAN--

--CAN WHAT, IRON MAN? ATTACK?

ONSLAUGHT--?

ALLOW ME TO **CONGRATULATE** YOU ON YOUR **VICTORY.** **ENJOY** IT--

--FOR THE HOLLOW TRIUMPH IT **IS.**

PITIFUL **FOOLS.** YOU THINK YOU HAVE FANNED A **SPARK** OF **HOPE** IN THE RABBLE OF **HUMANITY?**

CONSIDER IT **EXTINGUISHED.**

ONSLAUGHT

THIS, HEROES, IS YOUR FINAL BATTLE--

KSSH

KOM

YEAH? THEN WE'VE GOT ONE LAST THING TO SAY TO YOU:

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

TO BE CONTINUED IN X-MEN #56--

--AND ONSLAUGHT: MARVEL UNIVERSE!